

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN (10708 VICE 0708)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EG, US
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR APC'S

REF: (A) STATE 87127, (B) CAIRO 9429

1. WHEN MEETING WITH GAMASY LAST EVENING, I DREW ON REFTEL AND TOLD HIM WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT APC'S CAN BE SOLD TO EGYPT IN THIS FISCAL YEAR. I RELATED ISSUE TO POTENTIALLY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED F-5 SALE. WE HOPE GOE AGREES THAT F-5 SALE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OUR GOVTS AND THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE THAT MIGHT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT.

2. GAMASY WAS OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED. HE AGAIN NOTED THAT SECRETARY BROWN HAD, DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT, RAISED THE MATTER OF APC'S AND SEEMED AGREEABLE TO SELLING SOME OF THEM. AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, SECRETARY BROWN'S COMMENTS HAD BEEN MADE AT THE SAME TIME F-5'S HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. SADAT HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION, THEREFORE, THAT THE TWO COULD BE SOLD TOGETHER. GAMASY WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED

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IN THE MEANTIME TO CHANGE THIS VIEW.

3. I REITERATED WHAT I HAD EARLIER SAID TO HIM, NAMELY, THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD NOT AT THE TIME RESPONDED TO SECRETARY BROWN'S SUGGESTION OF APC'S. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAD UNDERSTANDABLY ASSUMED GOE INTEREST IN APC'S HAD DIMINISHED AND PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE

CONGRESS HAD FOCUSSED SOLELY ON F-5'S. IN FACT, APC'S HAD NOT COME UP AGAIN UNTIL HIS TALK WITH ME ON MARCH 27. BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO TRY TO CHANGE THE PACKAGE. AS HE KNEW, THERE IS SOME OPPOSITION TO IT ON THE HILL AND ANY INTRODUCTION OF NEW ITEMS SUCH AS APC'S WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PROBLEM. I HOPE HE UNDERSTOOD. BASED ON WHAT DATT HAD TOLD ME, I ADDED THAT I UNDERSTOOD SUBJECT WOULD VERY PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED WITH GAMASY DURING LATTER'S UPCOMING VISIT TO U.S.

4. FOR A BRIEF MOMENT GAMASY SAID HE WISHED TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL POINT ON THE APC'S, THEN THOUGHT BETTER OF IT AND DROPPED THE MATTER. HE SAID HE MIGHT WANT TO REVERT TO THE SUBJECT IN A LATER TALK.

5. COMMENT: MY GUESS IS THAT GAMASY WILL WANT TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON APC'S WITH SADAT AND GET A NEW READING ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECOLLECTION OF THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY BROWN. GAMASY WAS GENUINELY DISAPPOINTED SINCE HE VIEWED THE APC'S AS SOMETHING WHICH COULD BE SHOWN TO THE ARMY AS EVIDENCE OF THE SUCCESS OF SADAT'S POLICY OF WORKING CLOSELY WITH U.S. HE IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS THAT F-5'S AND C-130'S ARE MAINLY OF INTEREST TO THE SMALL EGYPTIAN AIR FDRCE. THE ARMY, THE BULK OF THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HAS AS YET SEEN NO DIRECT BENEFIT FROM THE U.S./EGYPTIAN RELATIONSHIP. WE MAY HEAR MORE ON
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THE MATTER IN THE FUTURE. EILTS

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